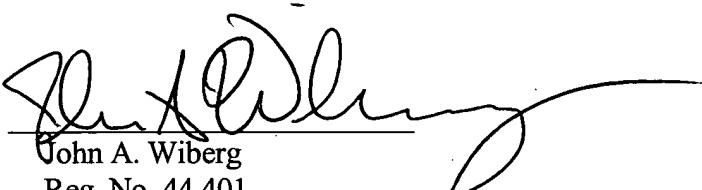


**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: ) Customer No.: 23,446  
O. Agazzi et al. )  
Serial No.: unassigned ) **EXPRESS MAIL**  
Filed: herewith ) Label No.: EL 848969966 US  
For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ) Date: March 11, 2004  
TRELLIS DECODING IN A )  
MULTI-PAIR TRANSCEIVER )  
SYSTEM )  
Group Art Unit: 2133 ) By:   
Examiner: G. Lamarre ) John A. Wiberg  
Reg. No. 44,401

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

MS: Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants submit this Preliminary Amendment in connection with the newly filed continuation application filed herewith.

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3.

Remarks begin on page 10.